

DRAFT

MINUTES OF DEVAUDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday 31st July 2017 at Itton Village Hall

Councillors present

N Knowland (Chairman)
J Rowlands
A Williams
M Powell
J Williams
I Cavill

In attendance:

H Faulkner
N. James (Clerk)

1. Open Session

The police report is attached at the back of these minutes. Mr Faulkner had heard of Mrs Hancock's concerns over the plantation and state of the hedges in Well Road. He also lived in that vicinity. Whilst he had been consulted over the tree planting he also expressed concern over the dangers of overhanging hedges given the situation in Doctors Wood and Church Lane, Wolvesnewton. JW advised that Mrs Hancocks had also forwarded to her another letter with various questions. There followed a long discussion over the Council's next steps, given the local concern despite the correspondence received from the managers of the plantation. JW had raised the principle of the use of agricultural land for woodland at the recent OVW Area Meeting and whilst noting that there were schemes in place for diversification for farms there did not appear to be specific planning regulations in place for the development of woodlands. It was noted that MP represented community councils in Monmouthshire and Newport on the external group Areas of Natural Beauty advisory Group. It was agreed that:

- a. AW and IC would liaise over a formal approach to OVW expressing the Council's concern at the extent to which farming land was being taken out of use for woodland, the ease with which good farmland can be turned into woodland without seemingly any of the normal planning restrictions, and to seek OVW's support to raise this issue at a higher level. **Action: AW/IC.**
- b. NJ would submit a highways request to MCC for the cutting of the hedges in Church Lane, Wolvesnewton. **Action: NJ.**
- c. JW would circulate a copy of the correspondence she had received from Mrs Hancock so that it could be discussed at the next Council meeting. **Action JW.**
- d. NJ would write again to the managers of the plantation advising them again of the local concern regarding original consultation, loss of views in the future and the ongoing state of the hedges. **Action: NJ.**

2. Apologies

There were apologies from K McElroy, A. Cooke and Cllr B Greenland.

3. **Matters Arising from the Open Session**

There were no further matters arising from the Open Session.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 26th June were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising**

a. Minute 1 – The Clerk had written to the owners of the land and had received a response from the General Manger which stated that the hedges would be inspected that week and cut if considered dangerous. In any event they would ensure that the hedges were cut and maintained following the normal 31 August deadline. Mrs Hancock had been advised but was still concerned that such a development could take place without adequate consultation. (See para 1 above).

b. Minute 5c – the issue of bus shelters would be discussed at the next meeting.
Action: JW.

c. Minute 8d – no response had been received as yet to the points raised about the planning process at the last meeting but, in addition it was felt that applicants should be made to include a flag on a Google map of the area showing the specific location.
Action: NJ.

d. Minute 11a – MCC had agreed to cut the area in front of the houses at Itton Common this summer without any additional cost. AW had put forward a proposed plan for the area around the Common including further seeding of yellow rattle which, following further discussion, had now been agreed.

e. Minute 11b– a response received by JR from MCC regarding certain signs placed along the fences and on the Green by the Hall had been circulated to all councillors. However, JW had received complaints from a couple of local residents regarding some signs/posters. The Clerk was asked to ascertain from MCC planning department what was the criterion for placing advertising banners on the perimeter fencing of the HMH. **Action: NJ.**

g. Minute 11f – MCC had visited Tredean Wood but could not locate the caravan there. The location was identified at the meeting and the Clerk would contact MCC again. **Action: NJ.**

6. **Finance**

a. Balances at 31 Jul 2017 were: Current Account £4091.91, Notice £5280.60.

b. The bank reconciliation and financial statement as at the end of June had been circulated to all councillors, and were approved.

c. Cheques were signed as follows: MCC for salaries Apr-Jun £839.16 – cheque number 101539; Merlin Waste for July for £27.12 – cheque number 101540; Clerk's expenses for July for £15 – cheque number 101541.

7. Correspondence

- a. Request from Monmouthshire Citizens Advice for financial support.
- b. South East Wales Regional Engagement Team June Newsletter.
- c. Details about a revised schools Organisation Code.
- d. Information regarding Welsh Government Workshops for local government representatives on higher activity radioactive waste management and disposal.
- e. Consultation on the Welsh Revenue Authority having access to criminal powers.
- f. Notification from MCC on changes to the services they offer on Development Management.
- g. Details about a vacancy for an independent member for the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.
- h. Clerks and Councils Direct for July 2017.
- i. Details of a vacancy for the vice-chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.
- j. The revision of BS5709 Gaps, Gates and Stiles for comment.
- k. A consultation request on electoral reform from WG.
- l. A summary of responses to the consultation on proposals to ban the use of plastic microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products in the UK.
- m. Older People's Commissioner for Wales Summer Newsletter.
- n. A request for support from the Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice.

8. Planning

- a. DC/2017/00736 – modification of conditions 4 and 5 from previous application DC/2016/01061 – at The Brye, Newchurch. As this was received more than 21 days before the meeting it was considered by councillors outside the meeting – recommended for approval.
- b. DC/2017/00708 – extension to existing cattle building at Panta Farm, Devauden. This was also received more than 21 days before the meeting and was determined by councillors outside the meeting - recommended for approval.
- c. DC/2017/00689 – erection of a garden room on front elevation of dwelling at The Wern, Itton Common – recommended for approval.

- d. DC/2017/00903 – erection of a single storey extension to side of dwelling to provide accommodation for an elderly dependant relative at Pwll-y-Cath Barn, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- e. DC/2017/00842 – change of use from agricultural holding to equestrian and agriculture, including retention of 20x20 manege at Sunnybank Farm, Devauden – recommended for approval.
- f. New and completed enforcement cases for June 2017.

9. **County Councillor's Report**

Given his absence, CC Greenland had written to update the Council on two issues: firstly he wanted them to be aware that he was still pursuing within County Hall various issues from local residents about speeding traffic in Devauden. Secondly, he had established that the land at Itton Common where a resident was seeking a parking space was owned by MCC and responsibility for it therefore rested with the Estates Department and not Highways. Whilst he would pursue with them an agreement to provide a car parking place there the issue would be who would pay for such a provision.

10. **One Voice Wales (OVW)**

- a. OVW Bulletin for June 2017.
- b. Final motions for the OVW AGM to be held on 30th September.

11. **Ward Reports**

a. JR advised that some local neighbours had expressed their concern to him over the lack of consultation on the erection of the new telecommunications mast on the edge of Devauden. The Council noted that planning rules did not require MCC to consult individually with residents provided details of the planning application were displayed prominently in the particular area. The Council was concerned however that the Application stated in the Tick Box that ALL neighbours had been informed when in fact one of six neighbouring properties had been informed. The Clerk was asked to advise MCC that local neighbours had not been aware of the application. **Action: NJ.** In addition, he noted that the public right of way that starts at the Devauden sign coming into the village on the B4293 from Itton was blocked. **Action: NJ.**

b. MP raised the following issues:

- 1. He had received the defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation but, before it could be installed, he needed a box in which to house it and to arrange for a panel to be installed in the phone box to hide a cable. He had obtained quotes for a defibrillator box. The Council agreed to pay for a box costing £112 plus VAT and to pay for Fred Richards to install an appropriate panel in the phone box in Itton. **Action: NJ/MP.**
- 2. The plainings which made up the surface of the 58.4 at Kilgwrrwg had now been washed away. **Action: NJ.**

3. The hedge opposite No 4 Itton Common was overhanging and restricted visibility. **Action: NJ.**

4. He requested an up to date copy of the designated MCC map for the area. As only a couple of councillors had copies the Clerk would obtain copies for all councillors. **Action: NJ.**

c. NK was concerned that, although cut a month ago, the Green opposite Wern-y-Cwm car park had been cut poorly and was in need of another cut. The Clerk would contact MCC to confirm the number of cuts it should receive, and arrange for another cut. **Action: NJ.**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Devauden Village Hall on Monday 25th September 2017 at 7pm.

POLICE REPORT 26 June – 24 July

16/7/17 – Several reports of loud music being played in Chepstow Park Wood. Cars and vehicles had got into the woods through a barrier at the main entrance on the Devauden road from St Arvans. There were approx. 150 persons there. The area was observed by ourselves and persons had left the following day. NRW has been updated.